

Foreign Service Institute, Near East Area Course, 1952

1. Announcement of Course

The Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State has decided to offer a five-month course in the Near Eastern area as part of its program of language-and-area training. This course, scheduled for October 1952 through February 1953, is designed primarily for foreign service officers who have volunteered for Arabic, Persian, and Turkish language-and-area studies, and will represent a partial continuation of their intensive language study. The course will, however, be open to other State Department personnel as well as to personnel of other departments or agencies of the government.

The course will be half-time, i.e., three hours every work day afternoon, of which two hours will be devoted to presentation of material by a speaker and, after a break, a one-hour discussion by the group in which the attempt will be made to integrate the various sessions and evaluate the varying points of view. The last month of the course will consist chiefly of the presentation and discussion of problem papers and research papers by members of the group. The Foreign Service Officers in the course will be carrying on their language study in the mornings; the other trainees, it is assumed, will remain attached to their own department or agency during the morning hours, reporting to the Foreign Service Institute for the area course in the afternoon.

A description of the course is attached to the present memorandum, and the Foreign Service Institute will welcome expressions of opinion on it. The overall pattern is set, but the exact list of speakers and topics is not definite, and it will be possible to add special features or emphasize certain aspects to gear the course more specifically to the needs of the various special groups of students. It may also be possible to rearrange the scheduling.

The instructional staff of the course will have as its core permanent staff members of the Foreign Service Institute, but it is hoped that the staff will be augmented from time to time by outside lecturers and discussants drawn from universities and various sectors of the government. Informal conversations with most of the men who might be called upon to give their services in this connection have met with willingness and often considerable enthusiasm.

Description of Course

1st week

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|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Political Significance of NE |
| 2 | Military Significance of NE |
| 3 | Geography of NE |
| 4 | Peoples of NE |
| 5 | Languages of NE |

2nd week

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|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1-2 | Ancient Near East |
| 3-4 | The Spread of Islam |
| 5 | The Turkish and Persian Empires |

3rd week

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| 1 | The Ottoman Empire |
| 2 | European Penetration to 1914 |
| 3-5 | World War I and the Emergence of
the Modern States |

4th week

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| 1 | The Mandate Period (1920-1946) |
| 2 | World War II and the Arab League |
| 3-5 | Contemporary Developments |

5th week

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| 1-5 | Culture Patterns and Social Structure:
The Tribe |
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6th week

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| 1 | The Village: Physical Structure |
| 2 | The Village: Contemporary Technology |
| 3 | The Village: Village Economy |
| 4 | The Village: Life Cycle |
| 5 | The Village: Annual Cycle |

7th week

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| 1 | The Village: Family - Structure and Functions |
| 2 | The Village: Religious Institutions |
| 3 | The City: Political Capital and Cultural Center |
| 4 | The City: Economy - Manufacture, Trade, Finance |
| 5 | The City: Social Classes |

8th week

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| 1 | The City: National Functions |
| 2 | The City: International Functions |
| 3-5 | Current Trends in Islam |

9th week

1-4
5

Current Trends in Islam
Near Eastern Law: Islamic Law

10th week

1
2
3
4
5

Near Eastern Law: To End of World War I
Near Eastern Law: Contemporary Problems
Egypt, Political
Egypt, Economic
Syria, Political

11th week

1
2
3
4
5

Syria, Economic
Iraq, Political
Iraq, Economic
Lebanon, Political
Jordan, Political
Negotiating Problems
Lebanon, Economic
Jordan, Economic

12th week

1
2
3
4
5

Sarabia, Yemen, Political
Sarabia, Yemen, Economic
Constitutional and Legal Systems, Arab States
Financial Systems, Arab States
Israeli, Political

13th week

1
2
3
4
5

Israeli, Economic
Constitutional and Legal Systems, Israel
Financial System, Israel
Iran, Political
Iran, Economic

14th week

1
2
3
4
5

Turkey, Political
Turkey, Economic
Financial Systems, Turkey and Iran
Constitutional and Legal Systems, Iran and Turkey
Petroleum in NE

15th week

1
2
3
4
5

Transportation in NE
Labor in NE
Land Tenure Problem
Tariff and Customs Politics
Trade Patterns

16th week

1-5

IIA Program in NE
Point IV Program in NE